

Introduced by Senators Solis, Alpert, Costa, Hayden, Hughes, Kopp, Lockyer, Maddy, Rosenthal, Sher, Vasconcellos, and Wright

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aroner, Escutia, Havice, Lempert, Machado, Murray, Ortiz, and Perata)

January 12, 1998

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 62—Relative to Women’s History Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 62, as introduced, Solis. Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day.

This measure would designate the month of March 1998 as Women’s History Month and would urge all Californians to join in the celebration of International Women’s Day on March 8, 1998.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and
2 ethnicity have participated in the founding and building
3 of our nation and have played a critical role in shaping the
4 economic, cultural, and social fabric of our society, not in
5 the least of ways through their participation in the labor
6 force, working both inside and outside the home; and
7 WHEREAS, Women have been leaders in every
8 movement for social change, including their own
9 movement for suffrage, the fight for emancipation, the
10 struggle to organize labor unions, and the civil rights
11 movement; and

1 WHEREAS, In light of these efforts and the
2 achievements of all American women, we take this
3 opportunity to honor women and their contribution to
4 the development of our society and our world; and

5 WHEREAS, The celebration of Women's History
6 Month will provide an opportunity for schools and
7 communities to focus attention on the historical role and
8 accomplishments of the women of California and the
9 United States, and for students, in particular, to benefit
10 from an awareness of these contributions; and

11 WHEREAS, Women's History Month will include
12 International Women's Day on March 8, originally
13 proclaimed in 1910 to recognize and commemorate the
14 valuable contributions women have made to the labor
15 movement in improving working conditions and thus,
16 bettering people's lives; and

17 WHEREAS, Women's History Month will be not only
18 a call to acknowledge the outstanding American women
19 whose names we know, but also a call to pay homage to
20 the many women who have anonymously shaped our
21 collective past; and

22 WHEREAS, The observance of Women's History Week
23 was initiated by the Sonoma County Commission on the
24 Status of Women in 1978, a celebration that evolved into
25 Women's History Month, commemorated throughout the
26 nation by schools, historians, and community groups; and

27 WHEREAS, The achievements of women who have
28 gone before us will enable contemporary women and
29 men to create tomorrow's history by working toward an
30 end to physical and sexual violence against women,
31 discrimination and harassment in employment, the
32 relegation to poverty status of many women, and by
33 advocating for the full participation of women in the
34 economic and political arena, the provision of adequate
35 child care, respect for those who choose homemaking and
36 motherhood as their career, and equal access to all of the
37 opportunities this great nation has to offer; and

38 WHEREAS, The story of the women's rights
39 movement deserves telling because of the significance
40 and scope of women's role in making history and shaping



1 the cultural and societal makeup of California and the
2 United States, and because it is a rich part of our common
3 heritage, a story of gallantry and devotion to the belief
4 that the opportunity for complete human dignity should
5 not be denied to one-half of the state and the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Women's History Project has
7 adopted "Living the Legacy of Women's Rights" as the
8 1998 theme for Women's History Month, inviting all
9 Californians to see women's lives and accomplishments as
10 an essential part of our national history, recognizing that
11 history looks very different when the contributions,
12 accomplishments, and perspectives of women are added
13 to our shared legacy as Americans, thereby increasing our
14 understanding of the world in which we live today and
15 expanding our possibilities for the future; now, therefore,
16 be it

17 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the*
18 *Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the
19 State of California takes pleasure in joining the California
20 Commission on the Status of Women, the Sonoma County
21 Commission on the Status of Women, the Los Angeles
22 County Commission for Women, and other city, county,
23 and community commissions for women in California in
24 honoring the contributions of women, and proclaims the
25 month of March 1998 as Women's History Month; and be
26 it further

27 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California
28 urges all Californians to join in the celebration of
29 International Women's Day on March 8, 1998; and be it
30 further

31 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
32 copies of this resolution to the Chair of the California
33 Commission on the Status of Women, the Chair of the
34 Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women,
35 and the National Women's History Project, for
36 distribution to appropriate organizations.

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